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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/653,972	09/04/2003	Hiroyuki Baba	242295US2	4470
22850	7590	11/28/2006	EXAMINER	
C. IRVIN MCCLELLAND OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			PATEL, KANJIBHAI B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2624	

DATE MAILED: 11/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/653,972

Applicant(s)

BABA, HIROYUKI

Examiner

Kanji Patel

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 6-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-5 and 9-10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/24/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Priority***

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. Information Disclosure Statement submitted on 2/24/04 has been considered by the examiner.

### ***Drawings***

3. Drawings filed 9/04/03 have been approved by the examiner.

### ***Claim Objections***

4. **Claim 6** is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 6, change "chose" to -- chosen --.

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

**Claims 1-3 and 6-8** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant's admitted prior art (Figures 9-13, pages 1-5 of the specification).

**For claim 1**, the admitted prior art discloses a filtering processor (102) that includes a filter and switches between a pre-filtering path and a post-filtering path (page 5, lines 4-7);

a data compressor (103) that compresses image data output from the filtering processor;

an image data storage (104) that stores the image data compressed; and

a data expander (105) that expands the image data stored, wherein the pre-filtering path includes a first path sending a raw image data to the data processor via the filter (in Figure 13, image data passing through block 101 to block 103 renders a first path) and a second path passing the image data expanded (in Figure 13, image data passing through block 105 to block 102b renders a second path), and

the post-filtering path includes a third path passing the raw image data to the data compressor (in Figure 13, image data passing through block 101 to block 103 renders a third path) and a fourth path sending the image data expanded to the filter (in Figure 13, image data passing through block 105 to block 102b renders a fourth path).

**For claims 2 and 7**, the admitted prior art discloses that the data compressor irreversibly compresses the image data output from the filtering processor (page 3, lines 4-8).

**For claims 3 and 8**, the admitted prior art discloses that the filtering processor switches between the pre-filtering path and the post-filtering path based on information of the image data (page 5, lines 4-7).

**For claim 6**, the admitted prior art discloses a method for filtering image data comprising:

choosing (page 5, lines 4-7; switching provides choosing) between a pre-filtering and a post-filtering path;

filtering raw image data when the pre-filtering path is chosen (102a);

compressing (103) the image data filtered when the pre-filtering path is chosen , and compressing (105) the raw image data when the post-filtering path is chosen;

storing the image data compressed (104);

expanding the image data stored (105); and

filtering the image data expanded when the post-filtering path is chosen (102b).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

**6. Claims 4-5 and 9-10** are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Prior art on record fails to teach or fairly suggest, singly or in combination, wherein the filtering processor switches to the pre-filtering path when a ratio of character information to the information of the image data is larger than a predetermined value as recited in claims 4 and 9.

Prior art on record fails to teach or fairly suggest, singly or in combination, wherein the filtering processor switches to the post-filtering path when a ratio of character information and picture information to the information of the image data is larger than a predetermined value as recited in claims 5 and 10.

**Other prior art cited**

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Yagishita et al. (US 6,704,444 B2) disclose a color image processing apparatus and color image processing method.

Hirota et al. (US 6,292,268 B1) disclose an image processor and image processing method handling multilevel image data.

Yamada et al. (US 6,549,720 B1) disclose a picture signal processing method and apparatus, picture signal recording method and apparatus and recording medium.

Murata (US 5,715,329) discloses a digital copying machine with memory for compressed image data.

Kajita (US 5,281,981) discloses a method and apparatus for forming image having plural image forming stations.

**Contact Information**

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kanji Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-7454. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bella, Matthew can be reached on (571) 272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571)-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kanji Patel

Art Unit 2624

11/25/06

  
**KANJIBHAI PATEL**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**